

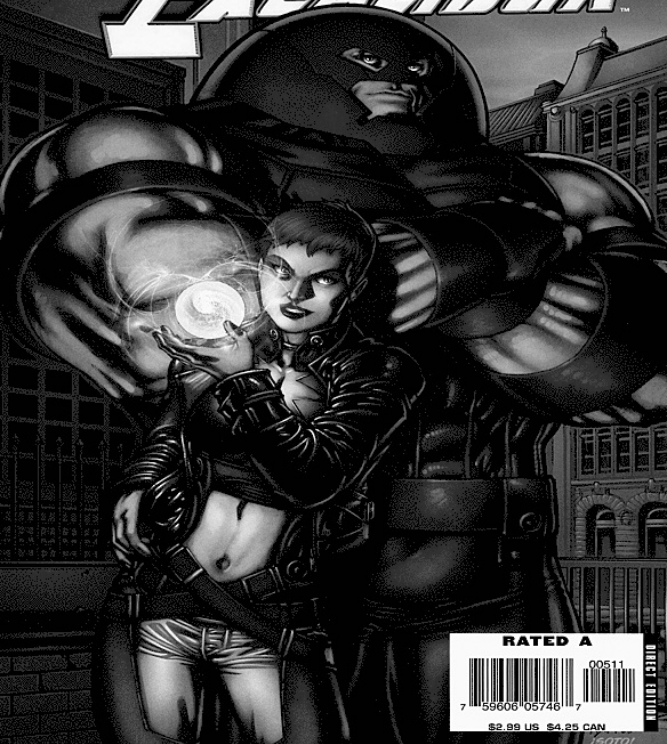
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NEW *EXCALIBUR*™



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DIRECT EDITION

Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

THE WARWOLVES (a pack of chrome-bodied, sentient hounds from another dimension) are liberated from their top-security cage at London's Regent's Park Zoo. Trapped on Earth, they survive by absorbing the life-essence of their victims, and then wearing their skins.

At the same time, secret agent PETE WISDOM approaches SAGE about the necessity of banding heroes together into a team headed by CAPTAIN BRITAIN. He wants to create a new version of Excalibur. It's an idea that may have come to him too late, however, because he and Sage are attacked by the WarWolves. Three of them go after NOCTURNE, DAZZLER, and JUGGERNAUT (the heroes Wisdom has in mind for the team), while two more attack Sage.

Meanwhile, COURTNEY ROSS is having the ultimate miserable day—discovering that all of her credit card and cellular phone accounts have been cancelled. But before anything can be done about it, she and Captain Britain are attacked by KELSEY LEIGH, who seeks revenge on the good Captain for her transformation into LIONHEART!



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LONDON,
THAMES-SIDE

YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
DO THIS,
KELSEY.

THAT'S
WHERE
YOU'RE
WRONG,
CAPTAIN. I
DO WANT
TO DO
THIS.

LONDON,
MIKE'S
GARAGE

WHAAAAH!

DOWN,
BOY!

LONDON,
DOWNTOWN

FIGHT
IF YOU
MUST, PET,
IT WON'T DO
YOU ANY
GOOD.

I'LL FEAST
ON THE ESSENCE
OF YOUR BODY
AND SOUL ...

... AND WEAR
YOUR SKIN AS A
TROPHY!

HOWLING MAD!

Marvel
Presents
**new
EXCALIBUR**

by Chris Claremont &
Steven Cummings

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colors: SOTOCOLOR
lettering: TOM ORZECZOWSKI
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KELSEY,
FOR MERCY'S
SAKE--!

DON'T
YOU DARE
USE THAT
WORD TO ME,
BRITAIN!

YOU
GET
NOTHING
LIKE THAT
FROM
ME--NOT
MERCY,
NOT
FORGIVE-
NESS!



!GASP!

BECAUSE
OF YOU, MY
BABIES
BELIEVE THEIR
MOTHER IS
DEAD.

AND IF
I REVEAL
THE TRUTH,
THEY'LL
DIE.



I DON'T
WANT YOUR
BLOODY
"SORRY"!

I'M TRULY
SORRY--!



I WANT MY
PROPER LIFE
BACK!



BUT I'LL
SETTLE FOR
ENDING
YOURS!













WHO'S
TOO
SLOW?

THE
ELF-GIRL
STILL THINKS
THEY CAN
MAKE A
FIGHT OF
IT.

TWO
PRIME--AND
GORGEOUS--
SKINS FOR THE
TAKING, MY
LOVELIES.

WHO
WANTS FIRST
CHOICE?

DON'T
GIVE UP,
ALI! WE
CAN BEAT
'EM!

SHOW
ME HOW,
T...

YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE!







HOW VERY
CUNNING OF
YOU, CAPTAIN,
PLAYING
POSSUM.

I MUST SAY,
I'M QUITE
IMPRESSED

LET ME
INTRODUCE
MYSELF...

...I AM
ALBION!





"CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S TAKING ON SOMEONE HIS OWN SIZE."

"AND AT FIRST GLANCE, FAR MORE POWER."

"BUT THE EFFECT
ON LONDON--AND
ITS CITIZENS--"









I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

APPARENTLY EVEN I DESERVE THE OCCASIONAL MIRACLE.

I'M SORRY THEY GOT AWAY.



I DIDN'T FOLLOW, CAIN, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT ALBION WANTED.

FIGHTING HIM ONE-ON-ONE WAS HARD ENOUGH.



WITH LIONHEART BY HIS SIDE--?

QUESTION IS, WHY IS KELSEY BY HIS SIDE?

WHO IS HE, WHERE DOES HE COME FROM? WHAT IS HE AFTER--



ASIDE FROM YOUR DEATH?

YOU KNOW, I USED TO BE A HALFWAYS DECENT SCIENTIST.

BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN THE FIRST RULE OF NATURE:



"IT ABHORS A VACUUM.

"SENTIENT LIFE ON EARTH WAS EVOLVING. WE MAY HAVE ISSUE WITH THE DIRECTION, BUT IT WAS STILL A NATURAL PROCESS.



"THEN, SUDDENLY, IN AN INSTANT, ALMOST ALL THE WORLD'S MUTANTS LOST THEIR POWERS. THE VERY GENCODE THAT CREATED THEM WAS ERASED.

"IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THE REACTION MAY PROVE JUST AS EXTREME?"



"M-DAY HASN'T MADE THINGS BETTER FOR THE WORLD, FOR TOO MANY, IT'S QUITE THE OPPOSITE."



"AND TOO MANY, I FEAR, WILL FIND PROFIT AND SATISFACTION IN MAKING THINGS WORSE."



"I CAN'T BE TRUE TO MY THRONE IN OTHERWORLD BY ABANDONING MY RESPONSIBILITIES HERE."

"WHAT THREATENS ONE ULTIMATELY ENDANGERS THE OTHER."

"CAPTAIN BRITAIN, FIRST AND FOREMOST, IS CHAMPION OF THIS REALM, BUT I CAN'T HANDLE THE JOB ALONE."

"I ASK FOR YOUR HELP, BECAUSE GOD KNOWS I NEED IT."



"I'M NOT THE MAN I WAS, MY FRIENDS, OR THE HERO."

"I INTEND TO BE BETTER."

"NOW, AS BEFORE, EXCALIBUR STANDS FOR AN IDEAL--MIGHT IN THE SERVICE OF RIGHT."

"LET'S GO DO SOME GOOD!"

"OH SURE, TAKE ALL THE CREDIT."

NEXT:

SO WHY IS IT I'M NOT DEAD?!

SWORD STROKES

MARCH
ON-SALE 2006

X-Men Titles

UNCANNY X-MEN 470 & 471: Marvel Girl is once again the center of attention as she is attacked by the Shi'ar. It's always "me, me, me" with that girl. We get it, your family died. Aren't you even going to ask us about our day?

GENERATION M5: It's the stunning conclusion to GENERATION M! Will Sally survive?!

SENTINEL SQUAD O*N*E 3: Why did the Sentinel cross the road? To fight the dinosaur of course! (What, don't you get it?)

X-MEN: THE 198 3: The 198 are angry. What else is new?

X-MEN: DEADLY GENESIS 5: Can the X-Men find Professor X? Here's a tip, X-Men—follow the tire tracks!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 26: A prequel to the current X-Men arc, "The Blood of Apocalypse!" How did Apocalypse come back? Find out here!

NEW EXCALIBUR 5: The ultimate villain for the new team emerges!

X-MEN THE END: BOOK THREE 3: Gambit is disguised as Mr. Sinister! Let the high jinks begin!

STORM 2: A young Storm meets the Black Panther for the very first time!

NEW X-MEN 24: Nothing brings the New X-Men kids together like a funeral! (Ooo, that's dark.)

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE/DRACULA 2: It's 19th-century London and Apocalypse is hunting Dracula! If that doesn't hook you, we don't know what will!

EXILES 78: The Exiles get a new member! Hint: She's from the Squadron Supreme universe and is a huge fan of women's golf!

X-FACTOR 5: Siryn is being held by an insane person! I wish Layla Miller would do something about this! I'm getting real tired of that girl knowing, but not doing stuff.

WOLVERINE 40: Wolverine finds the one thing in this world that can kill him! Let's just say it involves the words, "Star" and "Jones!"

NEXTWAVE 3: What would it be like to marry a nuclear weapon? Read Nextwave and come one step closer to finding out!

X-MEN 184: An X-Man joins Apocalypse's ranks! That Apocalypse, he's such a charmer. Like ZZ Top would say, "He's got legs, and he knows how to use them!"

Dear NEW EXCALIBUR,

I'm loving this series and I'm hoping it's going to stay longer than the last EXCALIBUR did. Here's my list of why this title should last FOREVER! (With some questions, as well.)

1) Nocturnel! First off, Nightcrawler is my favorite character EVER!

And to see his daughter in an ongoing series is awesome! She totally rocks! Will the Exiles make an appearance? And will Wanda meet Nocturne?

2) Juggernaut! Him not wanting to bring the pain is kind of scary.

Will he run into his old friend Black Tom again?

3) Dazzler's back! Are they going to explain where she was and how she got to London? And will Longshot and Mojo make an appearance?

4) DARK X-MEN!
5) No Wolverine! I'm sorry, but it seems Wolverine's in almost every X-Book, and I'm just glad to see him not in this one.

Thanks for keeping the X-Men alive and the stories thrilling.

Brian Metcalf
St. Albans, Vermont

Glad to have you aboard, Brian. Let's get to those questions.

1) You're right, Nocturne does rock. As for the Exiles...I would definitely keep my eyes peeled for the Exiles. They might show up when you least expect it!

2) Are you psychic, Brian? Black Tom is showing up in, like, two issues!

3) Longshot and Mojo? Well, if you've been reading your EXILES, you know Longshot has been recruited into the Exiles' mission. So if the Exiles show up, you can be sure Longshot is coming along for the ride!

4) Agreed—we LOVE the Dark X-Men.

5) Poor Wolverine. The guy just likes helping out. And just so everyone knows, the only X-Book besides his own that Wolverine will be appearing in regularly is ASTONISHING X-MEN. You know, ASTONISHING X-MEN? Some guy named Jess or something writes it.

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

I just finished reading NEW EXCALIBUR #3, and I have to say I am very impressed. The writing is tight and Michael Ryan's art is simply gorgeous—one of the most unique and interesting styles that Marvel has right now.

I can't tell you how ecstatic I am to have Excalibur back at last. The new lineup is brilliant, too. I have missed Pete Wisdom's snarky British charm so much, and it's great to see Ali back and kicking butt again. I'm only sorry that Kitty and Rachel aren't sticking around. I love Kitty's

interactions with Pete, and Ray seems to have regained some of her old confidence under the Excalibur banner.

Also, I'm really confused about this—is this Courtney Ross the original? Or Sat-yr-9? Did I miss something?

Anyway, this is clearly going to be an excellent title, so I'll have to stick around.

Allie Kiehl
Northampton, MA

Well, you seem pretty pleased, Allie. Happy to make you happy. Sorry we couldn't keep Kitty and Rachel around. They're over in ASTONISHING X-MEN and UNCANNY X-MEN, respectively. Go check them out! And what was that question about Courtney Ross? Sorry, couldn't really read the question clearly...got to go!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,
Dazzler is BACK!

I'm...I'm so happy.
For more years than I care to count I vowed to never touch any X-Title ever again. (I was so angry when she got saddled with that ridiculous Longshot and left the books.) The X-Men were dead to me until Ali was brought back and given the proper treatment I always felt she deserved. And now, so far, it looks like she's finally getting it. Better late than never, as they say. It's nice to actually be looking forward to a book with bated breath again. So far, after three issues, I'm very happy with the results. Keep up the good work.

David R. Wood
(Who still has his Dazzler lithograph hanging on the wall.)

Uh...well...glad we could help, David.

I'm going to go take a shower, everybody. We'll see ya here next month. (Shiver.)



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FALLING!**

Kurt Wagner



Genauigkeit
des Bildes

er für *DOZ*



XXI *Scan*